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Sent: Tuesday, August 09, 2005 1:02 PM
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Subject: Communication e-mail for 08/04/2005

For Out Patient Fee Schedule (OPFS) payment logic for services after June 30, 2005, a rumor has surfaced that suggests: (1) some plans will be denying and (2) AHCCCS will be pending outpatient institutional claims/encounters that span more than one date of service.

AHCCCS OPFS payment logic will process ER or observation visit outpatient institutional claims/encounters that spans multiple dates of service as one visit or episode of care. If plans are following the AHCCCS OPFS payment logic, clean outpatient institutional claims that span more than one date of service would be paid according to OPFS payment logic. Claim denials due only for a date span of more than one date of service are invalid.

In addition, for outpatient institutional claims/encounters the start of care or admit date cannot be prior to the begin date of service. However, the start of care date maybe equal to or one day after the begin date of service. For example, a patient is seen in an ER prior to midnight of the 1st day, and admitted to observation after midnight of the 2nd day. The start of care date is one day after the begin date of service. AHCCCS will have no problem processing these encounters, and that is not inconsistant with outpatient billing described in the Fee For Service (FFS) Provider Manual.

For additional information, please refer to OPFS payment logic in AHCCCS' Information System Division (ISD) proposals or contact the outpatient workgroup. Thank you.